

CLAIMS

1. A monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of Human Immunodeficiency Virus -1 protein p24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus -2 protein p26.
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2. The monoclonal antibody of claim 1 wherein said antibody is selected from the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303, and 108-394.
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3. A hybridoma cell line which secretes a monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 protein p24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus-2 protein p26.
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4. The hybridoma cell line of claim 3, wherein said cell line is selected from the group consisting of A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____, A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____, A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____, A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____, A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____, and A.T.C.C. Deposit No. HB _____.
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5. A method for detecting the presence of one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in a test sample suspected of containing one or more of said antigens, comprising the steps of:
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a) contacting said test sample with at least

one monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of Human Immunodeficiency Virus -1 protein p24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus -2 protein p26 for a time and under conditions

5 sufficient for the formation of antibody/antigen complexes; and

b) detecting said complexes, presence of said complexes indicating presence of at least one antigen selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in said test sample.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is selected from the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303 and 108-394.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is labeled.

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8. A method for detecting the presence of one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in a test sample suspected of containing one or more of said antigens, comprising the steps of:

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a) contacting said test sample with at least one monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of Human Immunodeficiency Virus -1 protein 24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus -2 protein p26 for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of

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antibody/antigen complexes;

b) adding a conjugate to the resulting antibody/antigen complexes for a time and under

conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to the bound antigen, wherein said conjugate comprises an antibody attached to a signal generating compound capable of generating a detectable signal; and

c) detecting presence of antigen which may be present in said test sample by detecting a signal generated by said signal generating compound, presence of said signal indicating presence of at least one antigen selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen in said test sample.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is selected from the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303, and 108-394.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said antibody of step (b) of said conjugate is selected from the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303, and 108-394.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is selected from the group consisting of 120-270, 108-394 and 115B-303, and said antibody of step (b) of said conjugate is selected from the group consisting of 117-289 and 115B-151.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is 120A-270

and said antibody of step (b) of said conjugate is 115B-151.

- 5 13. A method for detecting the presence of one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV antigen, in a test sample suspected of containing one or more of said antigens, comprising the steps of:
- 10 (a) contacting: 1) at least one monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of HIV-1 p24 antigen and HIV-2 p26 antigen bound to a solid support, 2) said test sample, and 3) an indicator reagent comprising an
- 15 antibody which binds to HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen to which a signal generating compound is attached, to form a mixture;
- 20 (b) incubating said mixture for a time and under conditions sufficient to form antibody/antigen/antibody complexes;
- 25 (c) detecting presence of a measurable signal generating by said signal-generating compound, presence of said signal indicating presence of one or more antigens in said test sample selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein said at least one monoclonal antibody of step (a) is selected from
- 30 the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303 and 108-394.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein said antibody of said indicator reagent of step (a) is selected

from the group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-303 and 108-394.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein said at least one
5 monoclonal antibody of step (a) is 120A-270 and
said antibody of said indicator reagent of of step
(a) is 115B-151.
17. A kit for determining the presence of one or more
10 antigens selected from the group consisting of
HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen in a test sample
comprising: (a) at least one monoclonal antibody
which binds to a shared epitope of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus-1 protein p24 and Human
15 Immunodeficiency Virus-2 protein p26; and (b) a
conjugate comprising an antibody attached to a
signal generating compound capable of generating a
detectable signal.
- 20 18. The kit of claim 18 wherein said at least one
monoclonal antibody of (a) is selected from the
group consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289,
103-350, 115B-303 and 108-394.
- 25 19. The kit of claim 18 wherein said antibody of (b)
is selected from the group consisting of 120A-270,
115B-151, 117-289, 103-350, 115B-3-3 and 108-394.
20. A diagnostic reagent comprising at least one
30 monoclonal antibody selected from the group
consisting of 120A-270, 115B-151, 117-289, 103-
350, 108-394 and 115B-303.

21. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 5 22. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
23. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- 10 24. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
25. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
- 15 26. An isolated peptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.
- 20 27. A method of detecting 1) one or more antibodies selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antibody and HIV-2 antibody, and 2) one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in a test sample suspected of containing said one or more of said antibodies and one or more of said antigens, comprising the steps of:
 - 25 a) contacting said test sample with at least one HIV-1 antigen which binds to HIV-1 antibody for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of HIV-1 antigen/HIV-1 antibody complexes;
 - 30 b) detecting said HIV-1 antigen/HIV-1 antibody complexes, presence of said complexes

indicating presence of HIV-1 antibody in said test sample;

c) contacting said test sample with at least one HIV-2 antigen which binds to HIV-2 antibody for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of HIV-2 antigen/HIV-2 antibody complexes;

d) detecting said HIV-2 antigen/HIV-2 antibody complexes, presence of said complexes indicating presence of HIV-2 antibody in said test sample;

e) contacting said test sample with at least one monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of Human Immunodeficiency Virus -1 protein p24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus -2 protein p26 for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of antibody/antigen complexes; and

f) detecting said complexes, presence of said complexes indicating presence of at least one antigen selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in said test sample.

28. A method of detecting 1) one or more antibodies selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antibody and HIV-2 antibody, and 2) one or more antigens selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen, in a test sample suspected of containing said one or more of said antibodies and one or more of said antigens, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting said test sample with at least one HIV-1 antigen which binds to HIV-1 antibody for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of HIV-1 antigen/HIV-1 antibody complexes:

b) adding a conjugate to the resulting HIV-1 antigen/HIV-1 antibody complexes for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to the bound antibody,

wherein said conjugate comprises an antigen attached to a signal generating compound capable of generating a detectable signal;

c) detecting HIV-1 antibody which may be present in said test sample by detecting a signal generated by said signal generating compound, presence of said signal indicating presence of HIV-1 antibody in said test sample;

d) contacting said test sample with at least one HIV-2 antigen which binds to HIV-2 antibody for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of HIV-2 antigen/HIV-2 antibody complexes:

e) adding a conjugate to the resulting HIV-2 antigen/HIV-2 antibody complexes for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to the bound antibody, wherein said conjugate comprises an antigen attached to a signal generating compound capable of generating a detectable signal ;

f) detecting HIV-2 antibody which may be present in said test sample by detecting a signal generated by said signal-generating compound, presence of said signal indicating presence of HIV-2 antibody in said test sample;

g) contacting said test sample with at least one monoclonal antibody which binds to a shared epitope of Human Immunodeficiency Virus -1 protein 24 and Human Immunodeficiency Virus -2 protein p26 for a time and under conditions sufficient for the formation of antibody/antigen complexes;

h) adding a conjugate to the resulting antibody/antigen complexes for a time and under conditions sufficient to allow said conjugate to bind to the bound antigen, wherein said conjugate comprises an antibody attached to a signal generating compound capable of generating a detectable signal; and

i) detecting presence of antigen which may be present in said test sample by detecting a signal generated by said signal generating compound, presence of said signal indicating presence of at least one antigen selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 antigen and HIV-2 antigen in said test sample.